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Disinfection of effects of returning soldiers at Egmont Key.

EGMONT KEY, FLA., April 7, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows concerning the operations of this camp.

The steamship *Yarmouth* arrived off the station about 7 p. m. of the 5th instant. She was boarded by Assistant Surgeon Corput and myself, and arrangements made for the landing of the troops. The following morning, about sunrise on the 6th instant, the steamship *Whitney* came in. There was a heavy gale from the northeast blowing all night of the 5th and until noon of the 6th. This caused such a heavy sea as to preclude the possibility of landing either troops or baggage until about 3 p. m. on the 6th, when lighters were gotten down from Port Tampa, and taken alongside the vessels, loaded with baggage and troops and brought to the wharf. Taking possession of the light-house wharf and buoy shed was a happy idea of Assistant Surgeon Corput, and without the wharf we would have been unable to land either troops or baggage. Immediately upon taking possession of this wharf we proceeded to construct thereon 5 tight chambers, each having a cubic capacity of 1,000 feet, for use as formaldehyd disinfecting chambers. We also constructed a chamber in our own disinfecting shed, having a cubic capacity of 1,300 feet, giving us a total of 6 chambers, besides the steam chamber. Immediately upon the landing of the first troops, the disinfection was begun, using the air-tight rooms and the steam chamber, all with formalin.

The first troops landed were set to work unloading baggage and pitching tents. About dark we succeeded in landing the last of the troops, got them into camp, and had them all fed and supplied with disinfected blankets by midnight.

All during last night there was a heavy blow, and at 6.30 this morning there was a heavy rain, with an increase in the velocity of the wind, which, however, was fortunately offshore.

Disinfection is progressing this morning as rapidly as possible in such weather. The disinfection is being done entirely by our own force, the trunks being simply unlocked by the owners and passed into the shed.

I have placed Passed Assistant Surgeon G. M. Magruder in charge of the disinfection, with Assistant Surgeon Corput and Senior Steward Peck and a force of men to assist him.

The troops now in camp consist of the first and second battalions of the Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with regimental headquarters, staff, band, and hospital corps.

There are still some baggage and 10 horses to be gotten off the transports. This we will probably accomplish by noon to-day if the sea gets no heavier, although it is a heavy task to land baggage and get it to the storehouse in the driving rain.

I have quartered and messed the officers in one of the long mess halls.

The troops are generally in prime physical condition, and there are only 2 men in hospital—1 with an injury to his ankle and the other with a slight gastric trouble, from which he has suffered for several weeks. This man is now convalescent.

The landing of the troops and baggage was effected without accident to the men or loss of property.

I have been appealed to by the superintendent of the Plant Steamship Company to allow the *Yarmouth* and *Whitney* to go to Port Tampa for coal and water. He has been informed, however, that these vessels

must either coal and water in quarantine or undergo the usual disinfection and detention. They will doubtless take coal and water in quarantine as soon as the weather will permit; probably not before tomorrow, and then proceed on the return voyage to Cuba without entering the port.

I have attempted to keep you advised by wire of all occurrences of importance, but the telegraph line between Braidentown and Tampa is frequently out of order, and this morning the cable from Egmont to Braidentown is not working.

The *Foster* is being used to convey mail, telegrams, and supplies between the camp and St. Petersburg and Port Tampa. The crew is not allowed to come ashore at the camp.

If further troops are to be sent here, it is requested that at least two large autoclaves be forwarded, in order that they may be used with the baggage which is required by the men while in detention. Most of the disinfection is now being done by the sprinkling method, the trunks being locked and sealed by pasting paper around the crack in the lid, the trunks then being piled and covered, as directed in your telegram of the 5th instant.

I have one No. 2 and one No. 1 autoclave, the former obtained from Dr. Eschemendia and the latter from Acting Assistant Surgeon Altree. These, however, I would like to return as soon as possible.

The term of detention of these troops dates from sundown yesterday, and will terminate at sundown on Sunday. They will probably proceed to Tampa early Monday morning.

Respectfully, yours,

P. M. CARRINGTON,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Since writing the above the velocity of the wind has increased to such an extent that the masters of the transports will not allow the lighters to come alongside. This will doubtless delay the work of disinfection to some extent.

The rain of this morning has completely refilled our fresh-water tanks, and I should have reported that Depot Quartermaster Brown, U. S. A., is laying a line of pipe from the wharf to our tanks, and will keep us supplied with water. He has also supplied wood for cooking and considerable lumber for tent flooring, which, however, for lack of time could not be utilized.

Considering all the adverse circumstances under which the work is being conducted, excellent progress has been made, and affairs are moving along with a minimum of friction.

It is impossible to make the regulation sanitary inspection of the men. I am, however, making a personal round and seeing all the men in their tents. Thus far no further sickness has been found to exist than has been reported above.

CARRINGTON,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Yellow fever on the steamship North Anglia.

Sanitary Inspector Brunner telegraphs, April 18, from Havana as follows:

Steamship *North Anglia* will leave here to-day for Baltimore via Santiago. Two yellow fever cases removed. Vessel disinfected.